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Executive Department
Austin, Texas, 1863, Nov. 6.

Messrs Cutbank & Co.

Circleville, Williamson Co. Texas.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Report of the 3^d Inst. made in accordance with the requirements of the Joint Resolution, approved Feb'y 19. 1863, of the number of hands employed liable to military duty, and the number of cards made monthly in your Factory.

— Very Respectfully, —

Executive Department
Austin, Texas, Nov. 12. 1863.

Maj. Gen?

J. Bankhead Magruder,

Com'dg Dist. of Texas, &c. &c.

General,

Your communication to this office of the 2^d inst. has been received, and you please accept my thanks for the promptness with which you have placed the facts contained in it before me.

You may be assured of my zealous and prompt co-operation, to the extent of my authority, in all measures necessary to the defense of the State. I fully appreciate the importance both of the facts and suggestions contained in your communication, and they shall, in the proper way, be placed before the Legislature.

In this my first communication to you, allow me to express my appreciation of your earnest and ardent devotion to the defense and interests of the State, and of the great services you have heretofore rendered her. Be assured of my abiding confidence, that if you have the

2
means at your command, the State will be saved
from the horrors which have been inflicted upon
so many of her sister States.

— Very Respectfully —
— Your Obedt. Servt. —

Executive Department
Austin, Nov. 18. 1863.

Brig. Genl.
Henry B. Mculloch
Com. N. G. M. Dist. Texas.

Sir,

Your favor of 8th
inst. has been rec^d. The whole subject of Frontier
protection is now engaging the attention of the Legis-
lature. I think there is a strong disposition to place
the responsibility and cost of the defence where it
properly belongs - with the Confederate authorities.
I agree with you, that if men are left at home to
defend their own families, that they should be
made to carry out their promises, and not remain
at home and do nothing. I sincerely hope,
that if the State continues to reserve men for
this defence - that they will be so organized as
to be efficient, and made, when necessary, to
co-operate with others engaged in the same duty.
I think, in case of the presence of the enemy in
the country, that the instructions to Genl. Hudson,
through the Adj. & Inspector General's Office,
would have authorized him to co-operate with
Col. Bourland - though not to turn his troops
over to his permanent control. I am glad,
General, that you are manifesting such interest
in this whole subject. For it is at present,
certainly, a most embarrassing one to the State.
With a full Regiment in service, and hundreds
of men left at home to operate in the protection
of the Frontier - left, too, in the Frontier?

Counties - neither draft, nor Conscript Law enforced. the cry from that region comes of more destruction to life and property than has been heard for years before.

I am sincerely desirous that the Frontier shall be fully defended - but, we have so much need of men - we cannot afford to cherish idlers and the men left at home to assist in the defense, must do their duty.

I have declined to change the tenor of Gov. Lubbock's orders to Brig. Genl. Hudson - because I thought the whole matter would soon be re-arranged in the Legislature.

The copy of Letter referred to, was forwarded, as I learn, from Adj. Genl's Office.

Very Respectfully -
Your Obedt. Servt.

Executive Department
Austin, Nov. 21st, 1863.

San^t C. Richardson
Capt. & Chf. Com. C. I. Dist.
Houston:
Texas

Enclosure

Sir, - Your favor, accompanied by Requisition for my approval, upon the Financial Agent of the Penitentiary, for 25,000 yards Penaburgs, has been received and duly considered.

I regret to say that, under regulations which I met upon this subject when I came into office, and which seem to me to be wholesome and well intended, I should feel that I should be acting with doubtful propriety in granting your request. The Commander of the Department, from his situation, must be the best judge of how the

products of the Penitentiary should be distributed. They should, of course, be made to meet, as far as they go, the most pressing wants of the department. In order to accomplish this desirable result, my Predecessor yielded to requests emanating from H^d 2^d of Dep^t Commander, in order that officers of the army, desirous of purchasing from the Penitentiary, should first make known their wishes at those H^d Quarters. To grant requests like yours, is to substitute in practice, so far as the products of the Penitentiary are concerned, my judgment, as to their proper distribution, for that of Lt Gen^l Smith, and besides confused and break up anything like a regular and uniform arrangement with regard to these products.

Surely such an application as yours would meet with ready approval at the proper point.

— Very Respectfully, —

— Yours Obedt. Serv^t —

Executive Department

Nov. 23rd, 1863.

Mrs. L. Hillibrand

Madam —

Your note in relation to your husband has been received. If your husband has been wrongfully arrested, and without authority of Law, the Courts of the country afford him a remedy. Any intelligent lawyer can inform you how to proceed to procure his liberation, if he is wrongfully held under arrest. The Courts are open to vindicate the laws, and protect the liberty of the citizen, when interfered with in violation of the Constitution and Laws of the Land.

— Very Respectfully —

Executive Department
Austin, Texas, 1863, Dec. 10.

Col. John S. Ford }
Austin, Texas }

Sir,

I have been shown an appeal, which you proposed issuing to the people, to rally for the purpose of repelling an invasion of the State from the direction of Mexico.

Believing that the movement will be endorsed and sustained by Maj. Gen. Magruder, you are at liberty to engage in the Expedition any of the State Troops not actually in Confederate service, who will consent to follow you.

I understand your proposed movement to be for the purpose of repelling an actual invasion of the State, at a point where we have no forces to meet the invading foe.

— Respectfully —

Executive Department
Austin, Dec. 15th, 1863.

Maj. Gen. }
J. Bankhead Magruder }

Sir,

You will excuse the haste with which this communication is written — I have but a moment to write before the departure of the mail. I have just received a communication from prominent citizens of the coast, and have also been approached by several members of the Legislature from that section of the State, in reference to orders said to have been issued by you for the destruction of Indianola, Port Lavaca, and the M. & R. R.

It is deemed by me proper to make known to you that the parties referred to, and they claim to represent the opinions and wishes of

the people of that entire section of the State - complained very bitterly of these orders, and of the destruction to flow from their execution. They claim that such a destruction of houses and property leads to the impoverishment of many families - families, too, of soldiers in the army, in many instances, and without an existing necessity, in a military point of view. The alarm is spreading, and those in the interior are becoming apprehensive, that when the coast towns are consumed by fire - that those farther in the interior will next meet a like fate, and the policy of burning property - houses, &c., will become a general one, as the same thing is threatened in the Northern portion of the State.

I assure you, General, that these fears and views are not expressed by men whose patriotism you would doubt, or whose views are entitled to no consideration. The orders referred to have not been placed before me, and the representations may be without foundation - but, if so, the parties who approached me are honestly mistaken.

I regret that I have not time to communicate more fully and freely, with you, on this important subject, at this time - I shall take occasion to do so again. I felt it to be my duty, promptly, to lay before you the views and apprehensions of those who are deeply interested in this matter, and ask for them that consideration to which their importance entitles them.

I have the honor to be

Yours Obt. Serv.

Executive Department,
Austin, Texas, 1863, Dec. 17.

Col. S. B. Hendricks
Huntsville, Texas

Hear Sir,

I have been informed of the outrages committed upon the Penitentiary, and upon Gen^l Beecher, the Financial Agent, by soldiers commanded by Col. White.

I desire you to inform me, at once, who Col. White is, and what Regiment he commands, and whether a Colonel or Lt. Colonel, and where he went to from Huntsville.

I wish you, also, if the parties who committed the outrages, or any of them, can be identified, to have warrants for their arrest issued by the Judge of the District Court of the District, of which Walker County forms a part.

When the warrants are issued, if the parties have not left the County, you will have them placed in the hands of the Sheriff of the County for execution, and you will direct the Sheriff to arrest the parties, and bring them before the proper tribunal for examination.

The Sheriff will demand of the officer in command, by virtue of the warrants, a delivery of the parties charged to his custody.

If they have left the County, you will give me information, and direct the Sheriff to hold the warrants until you hear from me again.

You are aware that, warrants of arrest, if properly issued by a District Judge, can be executed in any portion of the State, and you will see that, it is so issued.

You will confer with the Board of Directors about this matter, and request their assistance and co-operation with you. You will see that I have appointed a new Board of Directors, and they will have received their commissions before the arrival of this letter.

The Legislature has failed to provide a mode for the distribution of the products of the Penitentiary, and the disposition is virtually left without the direction of law. I shall, in a

few days, with you and the Secretary, fully upon
this subject.

I desire you to say to Genl. (Bessie)
for me, that his conduct, at the time of the
commission of the outrage, referred to and this
letter upon the Penitentiary, and himself, has
commended him to the country, and has fur-
nished additional evidence of his faithfulness
as an officer. I cannot refrain from thank-
ing him for his bold and manly conduct.

Very Respectfully,

Education Department,
(Austin, Texas, 1863, Dec. 18.)

Col. S. B. Hendricks and the
Board of Directors of the Texas
Penitentiary -

Gentlemen,

The 10th

Legislature made no additional provisions for
the disposition of the products of the Penitentiary.
I wish to correspond with you with reference to
adjusting, at once, a just and proper policy to
be pursued in this matter. While the Senate
and House disagreed as to the enactment of a Bill
intended to regulate the disposition of the products,
the action of both Bodies showed clearly
the sense of that Legislature, that the products
should be disposed of mainly to the Confederacy,
for the use of the army, and at something like
their market value. They seemed decidedly
inclined to make the Penitentiary to yield a
greater revenue to the State, and to the opinion,
that it was but just the Confederacy should pay
for meat supplies as they obtained from their
production something like the prices paid for
such supplies obtained elsewhere. It is said
that other States pursue a similar line of policy,
in the process of furnishing the Confederacy with

their products. In the measures adopted by the Legislature for the support of the families of soldiers, they should be confined, in their benefits, to the indigent, unable to supply themselves. To secure this end, they provided for lists to be made out, embracing such needy persons, by the Chief Justices of the various Counties, and returned to the Office of the Comptroller. This simply means, that while the State is willing, by a liberal policy, to provide for the needy, and those who cannot provide themselves, that she neither has the ability nor the inclination, to support from the public Treasury, those who can provide for themselves, at a time when, at least, three fourths of her fighting men are in the field.

I have submitted these facts for your consideration, and I desire your views upon the subject, and as to the mode of carrying out this policy, without delay.

Respectfully

M. H. I wish a plan adopted by which the distribution of the products of the Provisioning shall be regularly distributed, so that the contributions may go to the country, and thereby interfere, and thereby prevent the confusion, the dissatisfaction and the annoyance which upon the distribution is now done.

Executive Department
Austin, Texas, 1863, Dec. 11.

Genl. John S. Brown

Sir

Your communication of Dec. 5th has been received. It came so late only a few days ago.

I am satisfied that you have been a faithful and

efficiently guided, and the public will so acknowledge, that our small contributions to your service, and the encouragement under which you have labored since the war began.

I accept your nomination, but feel, at the same time, that the State is parting with an officer who has rendered valuable services to the Union in his capacity as Financial Agent of the State Militiamen.

It is of your to excuse me for not replying to your communication earlier. The press of business caused me to overlook it. And besides, a friend of mine had tented near your residence, as he stated for authority, some days before the reception of your letter. I can see the force of the facts stated in your communication, and assure you of my kindest personal regards and confidence. I have been informed of your bold and manly conduct, exhibited at the time of the outrage committed some time ago, upon yourself and the State, by a lawless band of soldiers, and for which, in the name of Heaven, I most sincerely thank you.

In this transaction, you have furnished additional evidence to the public of your faithfulness to the trust which was so long entrusted to your keeping.

Respectfully,
Your truly friend,

Executive Department

Dublin, Dec 8th, 1863.

Col. J. B. Kendrick

Sir,

I enclose a letter for you on yesterday in reference to the disposition of the products of the Penitentiary. I desire to call your attention and that of the Secretary, to some other considerations. The appropriation from the benefit of the industrially prisoners

of families is one million of dollars, which is nearly
seven in the United States, which is very an additional
sum of one per cent. The application of the
Legislature, to be reported before a third party, greatly
increased when will come into the Treasury, from which
they depended. In their extensive operations upon
income from the Treasury, this is a great
power, since the financial agents and the Secretary
over the price of products sold from that
institution, as the new standard? The products
are the property of the State, and you are selling
agents, and the Board of Directors as a decision,
are but trustees for the State and its property,
and have you the legal power or right to sell for
less than value? The reasonable market value
to any one - Country or Confederacy? Look to
the laws and you will find the Secretary answer. The
Legislature has said what they will give to the
families of soldiers and in getting to Convention
for this purpose - can any price be adopted
than what comes up to a fair value? If
another value is adopted, either for the Confederacy
or families of soldiers - what would be a better
than fair value, is it not, to the extent of the
difference, a charity or donation, and not a sale?
Would it not be better to deal exclusively with
Convention where no one would pay for soldiers
families, if any, and not with individuals,
who have arrived at the same, but have
your full and prompt consideration.

Yours truly

Secretary of Government
March 19th 1861.

Col. Geo. Crook

Wm. B. F.

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12
laborers, and whether any of the machinery is unemployed for the want of hands. I also desire a statement of the quantity, and character of the fabrics daily produced. I wish to know also what number of looms - spindles, &c., in addition to those already employed, can be employed in the buildings without enlargement, and the characters of machinery needed - its probable cost, &c.

Respectfully

Executive Department
Austin, Dec. 21st, 1863.

Mrs. B. M. Clarke

Madam

Your communication in relation to Dr. R. A. Peebles, of date 30th inst., was received some time since - It has not been overlooked by me, nor am I indifferent to its contents. I have been waiting the action of the Legislature, thinking that they might adopt some measure by which the State could take charge of citizens situated as Dr. Peebles is. The Legislature has adjourned, and made no direct provision for such cases. I think, however, if Dr. Peebles desires to appeal to the Judicial tribunals of the State, for a hearing of his case, and in order to secure his liberty, that the privilege will not be denied him. Indeed, I have been assured, that such a privilege will be extended to him, whenever he desires it. In this, perhaps, I am giving you no news. If this privilege is denied to him, and you will let me know, I may aid him to secure it. If held a prisoner, he is entitled to that humanity and kindness in treatment, guaranteed by the laws of the State, and I have not been informed that he is not so treated.

I am, Madam, deeply touched by your appeal to me, and you may be assured of my disposition to do everything in this matter consistently with my duties to my country, and

with the officer with which the people have entrusted me.

Be assured of my sympathy with you, and with your mother and family in their calamity and sorrows.

Most Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.

Executive Department,
Austin, Texas, Dec. 22^d, 1863.

Lt. Col. W. J. Hutchins }
Chf. Cotton Bureau }

Sir

I address the members of the Cotton Bureau through you. You will excuse this communication, as it relates alone to what I consider important interests of the State. The Legislature which has just adjourned, has done much to encourage manufacturing in the State, by stimulating private enterprise, and encouraging the association of capital and individuals for this purpose. They granted charters, and provided for bonuses in land for machinery actually put into operation, and, in some instances, secured the chartered companies, so far as its legislation could do so, against interference with the property of all kinds to be employed by them in procuring and operating machinery, and necessary, in any way, to the conduct of their business relating to such enterprises.

It is evident that machinery from abroad can only be procured through the medium of cotton. It is also evident, that the policy indicated by the Legislature of promoting and stimulating the manufacture of the leading articles of necessity is not only wise - but such a course of things is becoming an absolute necessity, for the people at home and the army in the field.

It is also evident, that such a course of policy should not be embarrassed or chilled.

by the authorities of the State or Confederate Government - but, on the contrary, encouraged, aided and urged forward. These considerations force the conviction upon my mind - that, where associations are formed under any of the charters, granted by the State, for the purposes indicated, they should not be interfered with in the free use of the cotton necessary for carrying out the objects of their charters, nor should any burdens be imposed upon them in reference to it. Of course, such regulations can be made in reference to the purchase, transportation and exportation of cotton, for these purposes, as will secure good faith and fair dealing on the part of chartered companies.

I respectfully suggest, that the regulation might, with propriety, be carried out in this way: - When companies are chartered, and satisfy the Executive of the State of their ability, and of their preparing, in good faith, to carry out the objects of the charters, and further, give satisfactory assurances, that the cotton to be exported is to be used only for these purposes, that his permit to them to export, so many bales of cotton, should be a complete protection against all interference whatever.

This course of action, if properly carried out, harmonizes the efforts of the State and Confederate Authorities in the prosecution of the same great object - the furnishing the country and the army with necessary supplies.

I claim only what I conceive to be a clear right of the State - and it is manifest, that if her policy is embarrassed by regulations emanating from Confederate authority - that her charters, bonuses, and stimulants, extended to private enterprise - may not yield as much to the Country as might otherwise be reasonably anticipated. I cannot think, therefore, that there should be any difficulty in having an understanding, in advance, which will prevent jarring and complaint in executing the policy so clearly

defined by the recent enactments of the Legislature, and so obviously necessary, in the present condition of the country.

Embarrassments have, heretofore, been thrown in the way, of citizens, who were striving to introduce machinery from abroad - by military orders - which I consider unfortunate - and has certainly caused delay in the introduction. I allude to this, merely in illustration and proof of the importance of what I have stated.

I have not intended to embrace, in what I have said, the property and means of the State, to be employed for any purpose dictated by her will, nor property embraced by contracts made by her - as I take it for granted, that in such instances, there will be no interference from any source.

I have, Gentlemen, written plainly and directly to you, upon a subject which I considered to be of much importance, and I am gratified that I am addressing myself to old and experienced citizens, whose character for integrity, intelligence, and success in life, furnish a guaranty that they will readily appreciate whatever is for the interest of our State, and whatever concerns her rights and dignity, and detect whatever has a different tendency.

I will be pleased to hear from you, in response to this communication, at your earliest convenience, as parties are already inquiring of me upon this subject.

With much respect,
I am, Your Obedt. Servt.

Executive Department,
Austin, Dec^r 23^d 1863.

Maj. Gen^l

J. Bankhead Magruder,

Sir,

I have been informed of an outrage committed upon the Re-sidentary and the Financial Agent, some days since, by a band of soldiers - said to have been under the command of Col. White, en route from Brenham to Navasota. I have enquired who Col. White is, and what Regiment he commanded, but have, thus far, been unable to ascertain. It is said,